

# Valley The Star

AN INDEPENDENT MEDIA OUTLET

VOLUME 86, ISSUE 5

VALLEY STAR NOVEMBER 17, 2017

WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM



SPORTS: WATER POLO



VALLEY LIFE: VET COOKOUT



OPINION: VETS

## Camper goes up in flames

A mobile home used as a base of operations for bloggers was burned down last week.



PHOTO BY/ SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI

BURNED RV- Spectrum workers repair damaged lines from a fire in an RV parked on Burbank near Parking Lot H.

**CESAR MARTINEZ**  
STAFF WRITER

A Winnebago caught fire in front of Valley College's parking lot H the day after Halloween, leaving firefighters and the owners searching for the cause.

Parked between Ethel and Fulton avenues on the south side of campus, the I'm Burger Podcast's mobile home-turned-studio was extinguished after catching fire in the early morning. The ashes and red cones still remain where the RV was parked.

"We have a podcast every Wednesday," stated David

Burger. "I called Theo to get battery numbers for a new charger and he called me back and told me the RV was burnt."

Neither of the hosts were living in the Winnebago, but believe that the incident was far more sinister than a simple electrical problem.

"Everything was turned off for [Wednesday's] show," said Co-host Theo Manhattan. "We've actually received some death threats here-and-there."

The I'm Burger podcast began streaming from their Winnebago in July. Mixed with comedic banter, the podcast has gained some recognition for its unfiltered talks about scandals in Los Angeles such

as poverty, it's crime statistics and pedophilia.

"We say whatever we want on our podcast," said Burger. "We have been covering sexual assault scandals and other celebrities. Only thing is, we name names."

In a particular podcast on Aug. 29th, the team referenced explicit photos of Tiger Woods and Miley Cyrus urinating next to a parked car with the caption, "this is who our children look up to."

The fire department claimed that the fire was not likely the result of a sabotage.

"The heat could have risen inside the RV from being trapped under the electric

cables for such a long time," said firefighter Bennet. "But since the cause of the fire is still undetermined, this would make it an ongoing investigation."

Bennet added that they have seen an "an influx of trailer homes and campers growing around the neighborhood, but this first where we've seen something this hazardous."

As mobile homes continue to settle around neighborhoods, as a way of coping with California's poverty flood, citizens are advised to keep a cautious eye for any irregular activity.

## Rises in sexual assaults create campus concern

Sexual assaults on and off campus serve as a reminder to students to be aware and stay safe while going to class.

**By SAVANNAH SIMMONS**  
STAFF WRITER

With a jogger who was sexually battered near Valley College and a rise in reported rape cases at CSUN, officials warn students to be cautious both on and off campus.

While running on Fulton Avenue next to Valley College, a female jogger was sexually battered by a man who came up from behind and fondled her breasts. The woman struggled and quickly broke free by elbowing and kicking her attacker, which caused him to release her and flee the scene.

It will say it did not occur on campus but for the students and staff to be aware of their surroundings," said Deputy Melvin Young of Valley College's sheriff's station.

With the Clery Act, all colleges and universities are required to disclose information about any crime on or in the immediate vicinity of the campus. A special bulletin by the sheriff's office was posted around school in various places such as the doors to buildings, the cafeteria, and Student Health Center explaining the incident and giving a description of the suspect. The suspect was described as a 5 foot 5 inch, thin built, Hispanic male about 25-30 years old with a long mustache and small goatee.

Nearby, CSUN is going through a bout of sexual misconduct seeing an uptick in rape cases from the past few years. In 2016, there were 14 reported cases of rape with five in 2015 and two in 2014. Most of the reported cases happened at campus housing and most victims knew their attackers.

The social media hashtag

"#metoo" has quickly gained popularity with women sharing their stories of sexual misconduct that they have experienced. The confidence to stand up and speak out about the victims' attackers may be, in part, thanks to the comfort people have felt while reading thousands of tweets and posts that have been shared, giving a sense of community and togetherness.

With the attack so close to campus and the nearby CSUN rape case rise, it is important to remember to stay safe. Staying safe and keeping aware of your surroundings is a must at all times, not just on campus.

"I think our students are safe but they should stay mindful," said Dean of Career Technical Education, Laurie Nalepa. "As a late night dean, I always want to be safe and make smart choices."

Some safety tips the sheriff's station lists on their website are to have a safety buddy that you can call if you need a ride or help, know where there are "panic phones" available to use on campus, and have your keys ready when you get to your car for quick entry.

Escorts from the sheriff's department are also available for students and staff to and from classes upon request. Nalepa reminds students to be mindful and walk where there are lights and other people around but she herself even takes full advantage of the sheriff's escort and uses them when she is getting to her car at night.

If you would like a sheriff's escort or feel you are in danger while on campus, call the sheriff's station at 818-947-2911. If you are off campus, call 911 immediately for help in a dangerous situation.

## Valley's ASU finally gets a sorely needed president

The new ASU president, Leslie Silva, is ready to fight for Valley students.

**By AKI TAKASHIRO**  
STAFF WRITER

Leslie Silva, a former recipient of the Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, takes over as Associated Student Union President.

As a recipient of DACA Silva has learned a lot about what it takes to be a leader and seems intent on bringing that knowledge to her new position as the president of the Associated Student Union (ASU).

"When I was under the DACA program, I found a lot of support and friends," Leslie said. "I realized that I'm not alone." Silva, a political science major, is very active in the campus community. She participates in the Dreamers Club, MECHA, GSA, Political Science Club and the Speech and Debate Team. Her participation in these clubs helped her realize that there are many resources that can help support a better campus and academic life for students.

Participating in these

clubs, she became more aware of how difficult it is to charter clubs and get financial support. These factors encouraged her to run for president of the Associated Student Union, to help alleviate these issues.

**"Thank you for electing me as your president, showing your support, and exercising your right to vote, every vote made difference," Silva said.**

Silva is optimistic about her future as president of the ASU and looks forward to getting started. She is also grateful to those students who participated in the election.

"Thank you for electing me as your president, showing your support, and exercising your right to vote, every vote made difference."

Silva also hopes to make the ASU a more powerful plat-

form for the different voices of the student body. The student government's support of clubs, activities and events needs to function better, according to Silva. She plans to push several policies and to help facilitate and streamline these processes, and she also hopes to inspire future leaders as well.

One of the issues she is most concerned about now is a new policy coming next semester that automatically drops students from classes who cannot pay tuition by the deadline. According to Silva, many of Valley's students are economically disadvantaged and may not be able to pay by the deadline. If the new policy goes into effect, many of those students would be dropped from their classes.

"I will be the face and voice of Valley students, and I push for longer deadlines," Silva said.

Jairo Alvarado contributed to this story.



PHOTO BY / SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI

LEADERSHIP- Leslie Silva, the new Valley ASU president, looks forward to her new position.



# OPINION

## The U.S. Military deserves better than President Trump

After almost a year in office, President Donald J. Trump still does not understand the military or those who serve in it.

OPINION BY  
SOLOMON SMITH  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In the last year the president of the United States has managed to insult the honored dead, insult a soldier's widow, and defame war heroes without the slightest pause—and veterans deserve better.

Donald J. Trump has what most would label a "contentious" relationship with the military and his public guffaws show it. Trump himself has constantly touted his love for the military and its generals, but his actions and policies point in the opposite direction. Before he even became president, Trump had managed to get into a flame war with one of the most renowned and respected war heroes of our time, Senator John McCain.

"He's not a war hero," said Trump of McCain during speech at the 2015 Family Leadership Summit. To the surprise of the host, Trump went on to say, "He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

McCain, a Navy fighter pilot in the Vietnam war, was captured and spent almost 6 years at what has been called "Hotel Hanoi," an infamous North Vietnamese prison for Americans who were captured and tortured there.

He endured this hardship to return home almost 6 years later with permanent damage to his right arm. Politics aside John McCain is, undoubtedly, a war hero.

Cut to the U.S. and a young Donald Trump who, between 1964 and 1968, when drafted claimed bone spurs in his foot as his main cause for being ineligible to serve, although which foot the spurious problem occurred in would change depending on when he was asked, according to an article by CNN.

During the 2016 Democratic Convention Trump also attacked the family of a slain veteran, also called Gold Star Families, after they issued harsh criticisms of Trump. The father of Captain Humayun Saqib Muazzam Khan, who was killed during a suicide attack in Iraq in 2004, criticized Trumps immigration policies.

Trump responded by indicating that Mrs. Khan was silent because she was restricted from speaking because she is Muslim.

In an interview with George Stephanopoulos on "ABC This Week Trump" said, "If you look at his wife she had nothing to say," he continued, "...maybe she wasn't allowed to speak, I don't know."

When asked what he thought about Khans comments about Trump's lack of

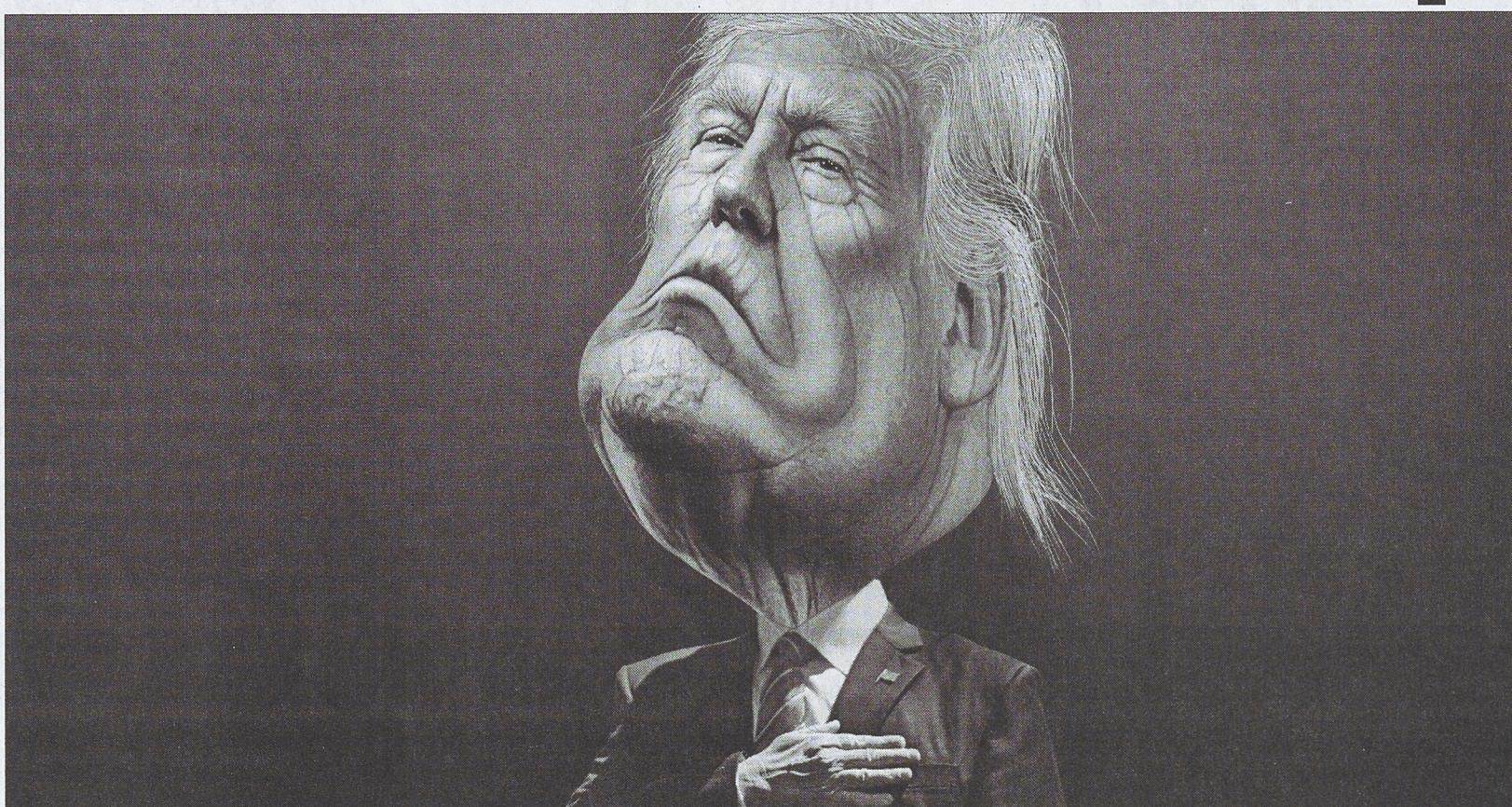


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION CURTESY OF DONKEYHOTIEY

PLEDGE- President Donald J. Trump, a man with a large ego and little respect for the military, is currently the Commander-in-Chief.

personal sacrifices, Trump responded by saying he has "made lots of sacrifices," comparing his financial losses to the loss of Khan's son.

Last October, Trump engaged another grieving family with a bungled phone call. In a call to Natasha De Alencar, the widow of U.S. soldier Staff Sgt. Mark R. De Alencar, he forgot her husband's name according to an article by the Washington

Post. Later this gaffe was publicized, and Trump responded by attacking the widow on Twitter and indicating that she lied about the exchange.

On Twitter Trump wrote, "I had a very respectful conversation with the widow of Sgt. La David Johnson, and spoke his name from beginning, without hesitation!"

Alencar stated that the exchange made the death of her husband more painful for

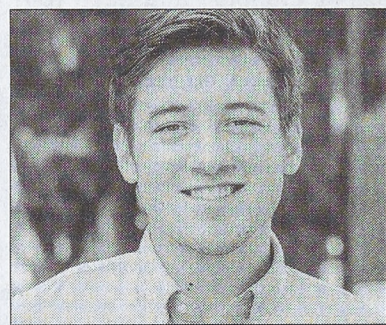
her in an interview on CNN.

Agree with Trumps politics or not, as the president of the United States, he has millions of soldiers under his command who may have to one day give their lives to their country. It is a small thing to ask that the commander-in-chief show respect, if not for the individuals, then the service that those individuals have provided. In his usual petty way Trump responds to criticism with

crass attacks on grieving families. Trump is bereft of the moral material necessary to be a leader to men and women who sacrifice to their countries every day.

Had President Trump had the integrity to serve when called upon, he would have learned what sacrifice actually means.

## The Not-So-Golden State



OPINION BY  
HARRISON MCQUINN  
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

I write to you from Los Angeles, the city of angels, one of the several magnificent stops along the Golden Coast. Look off in the distance and you can see the Hollywood Sign! Right there, just beyond the hundred-car pile-up!

If you find yourself anywhere from San Diego to Sacramento, I sincerely hope you also have a check-out time with the front desk, because visiting is the only acceptable reason for venturing into the backed-up, exorbitant, tremoring streets of California.

With mild weather year-round, perfect for surfing, how could one

California is far from the best state to live and the list of reasons why is endless.

complain? Let me explain as I sit in the daily 405 gridlock.

California may top the charts for best beaches, but it is also up there for living costs, gas prices, and congested freeways.

The average Californian spent 81 hours in traffic as of 2015, and this year, gas prices are nearly up to \$4 per gallon compared to our Nevada and Arizona neighbors whose gas prices are as low as \$2.30.

Let us say you finally escaped the standstill car parade along the 101 and you are pulling up to the neat hole-in-the-wall spot you found on Yelp that serves \$18 chicken strips. You also managed to find a spot only a few miles away to park. You are now faced with a parking sign reading so many conditions, it starts to look like the plot of "Inception."

If you failed to read the entire sign, prepare for a ticket in the \$70 range. In fact, get used to drying up your bank account should you plan on settling down out here.

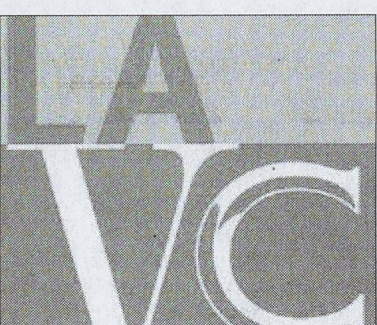
The sunny state's median rent runs around \$1,900. Meanwhile, other states like Michigan and Texas offer rent as cheap as \$500.

With all of that revenue from gouging its tenants, the state spends a good amount retrofitting structures to keep up with that pesky 800-mile plate of lithosphere below it that is estimated to be due for an 8.2 scale earthquake.

The truth lies in the expense of living in California compared to the quality you get. The land of promises, where a middle-class income will get you a one-bedroom apartment in Studio City and an exhausting commute.

You can ask the Angelenos themselves, but good luck getting between them and their phones, #1000likes, #calilife, #shallow.

## 'Kids like him' not allowed



OPINION BY  
KATHLEEN ZAMORA  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The ignorance, discrimination and injustice done unto those with special needs is disgusting. Just last month, 11-year-old Nicholas "Nicho" Fajardo and his babysitter Erika Ganier wanted to enjoy an evening at the pumpkin patch and petting zoo on Van Nuys and Sherman Way when ignorance won the day.

Ganier was snapping pictures of Nicho enjoying his time with other children in a bounce house when workers came by and said that "kids like him" have gotten hurt, so they were not allowed in the bounce house. Nicho faced this discrimination because he has down syndrome. Ganier explained that Nicho poses

Women are starting to stand up against sexual harassment by speaking out.

no risk to other children, but the workers insisted that he leave. Ganier said that Nicho was disappointed but didn't know how to express it-- later that day she took to Facebook to share their story.

Maria Fajardo, a North Hollywood resident and Nicho's mother, was furious when she read the news, and thanked Ganier for sticking up for her son.

In an effort to apologize, the owner of the pumpkin patch left a voicemail for Fajardo, saying, "I am so, so sorry" but went on to say that special arrangements are needed. "You make arrangements for him to be, a day ahead of time," he said. "to where it's not busy because you know how kids are bullies and stuff." Fajardo told the owner, "...that was still incorrect. He should be able to go whenever he wants. There should not be a 'special day' for him."

Fajardo says that since her son's experience has been shared on social media (which has received over 2,000 shares, 1,000 likes and 54 comments) many parents of children with disabilities said the same thing had happened to them the year before.

"There are a lot of parents with children with disabilities that have reached out to us and said they are concerned," Fajardo said. "They're saying what we did was great for all kids with disabilities. This had never happened to us before."

Since then, Fajardo has contacted officials with the Americans with Disabilities Act in Washington, D.C., and has been put in touch with a local attorney.

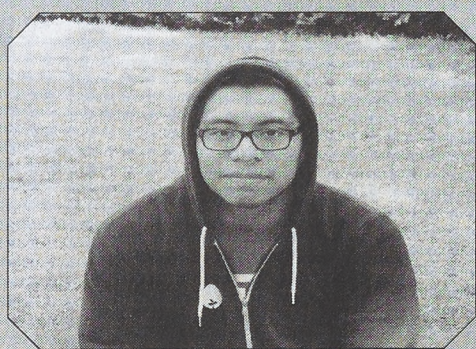
According to the ADA, it is illegal for a person to be refused service solely because of a disability. Any persons who feel that they have been discriminated against can file a complaint with the ADA which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

This act of ignorance displayed by the workers of the Van Nuys pumpkin patch and petting zoo has opened the eyes of many to the prejudiced society we live in. Those who have experienced this kind of discrimination are encouraged to share their stories and make a difference.

## VALLEY VIEW

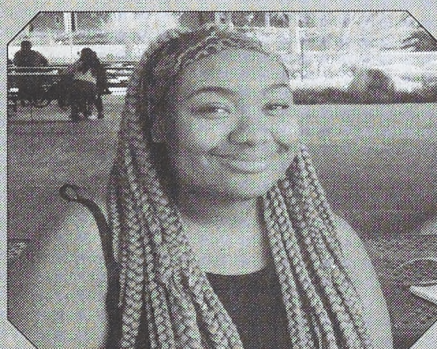
What do you like and dislike about California?

By Emmanuel Cordova with photos by Luis Romero



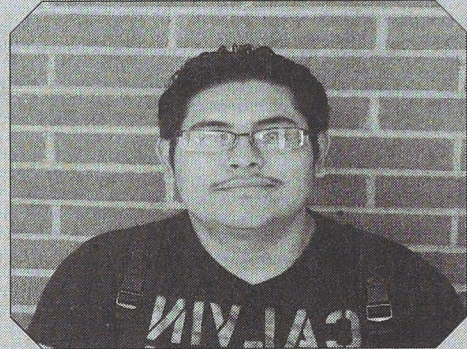
"What I like about California is the diversity of people, I don't like the pollution that we have here in California." -

Omar Gomez,  
kinesiology major



"California is [about] the job opportunities and networking, you don't need to go to school to be successful."

Briana Riser,  
communication major



"I dislike the neglect of purified water that we use in our daily basics."

Carlos Lopez, Nursing



I love In-N-Out burgers, but dislike how the discrimination against latino, asians and blacks hasn't ended. Fatima Arriola,



# VALLEY LIFE

3

## A retired NFL star shares his darkest moments

Former NFL quarterback Erik Kramer came to Monarch Hall to discuss depression and surviving suicide.

By HARRISON MCQUINN  
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Erik Kramer was a football success story from the San Fernando Valley grinding his way into the NFL, but faced an opponent not even the best offensive linemen could stop, depression.

Students shuffled into Monarch Hall Wednesday where Athletic Director Jim Fenwick briefly introduced Kramer who then put his hands on a piece of metal, this time to deliver a powerful message.

"We killed them," said Kramer on facing the Dallas Cowboys in play-offs back when he played quarterback for the Lions. The 53 year old started calling signals back at Pierce College long before the hitting the Silverdome. Fenwick was coaching Kramer at the time and had great things to share about his grit saying, "Nobody worked harder than him."

Kramer was even called Brass by former teammate Ken Dallafior who claimed the quarterback had "brass balls."

He was a 200 pound football player who stood over 6 feet tall, battled into the NFL as an undrafted free agent, and was thought to be made of brass, so how did he find himself at that Good Nite Inn two years ago with a SIG Sauer 9 millimeter against his chin?

"Failure is part of the process. You get knocked down

five times, get up six," Kramer explained of losing several battles over starting quarterback.

The Encino native admitted he thought happiness was as simple as transferring to a university then into the NFL, but even while he was breaking records with the Chicago Bears, he felt disconnected.

As he put away the helmet and shoulderpads, Kramer continued onto the gridiron of life where he played the ultimate quarterback sneak, hiding away the looming sense of isolation. He began a run for the end zone where his family and friends waited eagerly, but was being chased by faceless lineman geared with anxiety and depression. Fifty yards. Kramer retires from the NFL but finds a new niche in sportscasting as the Lions' color commentator.

Forty yards. Marshawn Kramer, now ex-wife, files for divorce in part due to conflicts driven by Erik's depression.

Thirty yards. Kramer's older son Griffen, only 18 years old and playing quarterback for Thousand Oaks High School, died from a heroin overdose.

Twenty yards. Kramer's mother passes away from cancer and his dad becomes sick as well. He's down in the red zone.

Finally tackled by all of life's adversity, Kramer felt complete seclusion from all his friends and remaining son Dillon with whom he had a relationship he referred to as, "sketchy at best."



PHOTO BY/ SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI

KRAMER SPEAKS- In front of students and faculty Erik Kramer shares his struggles with suicide and depression.

After a final meal down the street, the troubled father sat alone in a Calabasas hotel bed accompanied only by a cold piece of steel with the power to conclude months of deliberating, rewriting of a will, and several goodbye notes.

"I can't do this forever," echoed in his head.

Like a grounded pass on the sideline with a receiver inches away, the bullet missed most

of Kramer's brain but landed him at Providence Holy Cross Hospital in Granada Hills.

It took Kramer two weeks to wake up before being transferred to UCLA Medical Center. He was taken to a Brain Rehabilitation Center for six months to endure speech therapy, physical therapy, and brain exercises. "I was the only one there because of a gunshot to the head," said Kramer who

was used to feeling separated. The experience, through traumatic, exposed Kramer's condition which allowed his friends and family to properly support him. He reconnected with football friends and Fenwick who he now plays golf with on Wednesdays.

These connections along with professional help and medication have brought new light to Kramer's life.

The former NFL star plans to go into coaching to continue creating connections with players and encourages anyone struggling with depression to also build relationships and, if needed, seek professional help.

Kramer advised to the Wednesday crowd and all those who hear his story, "It's never a good time to quit."

## California gas taxes up, for infrastructure

California's average gas cost is the highest in the United States with the tax increase, and some in the California Senate are not happy about it.

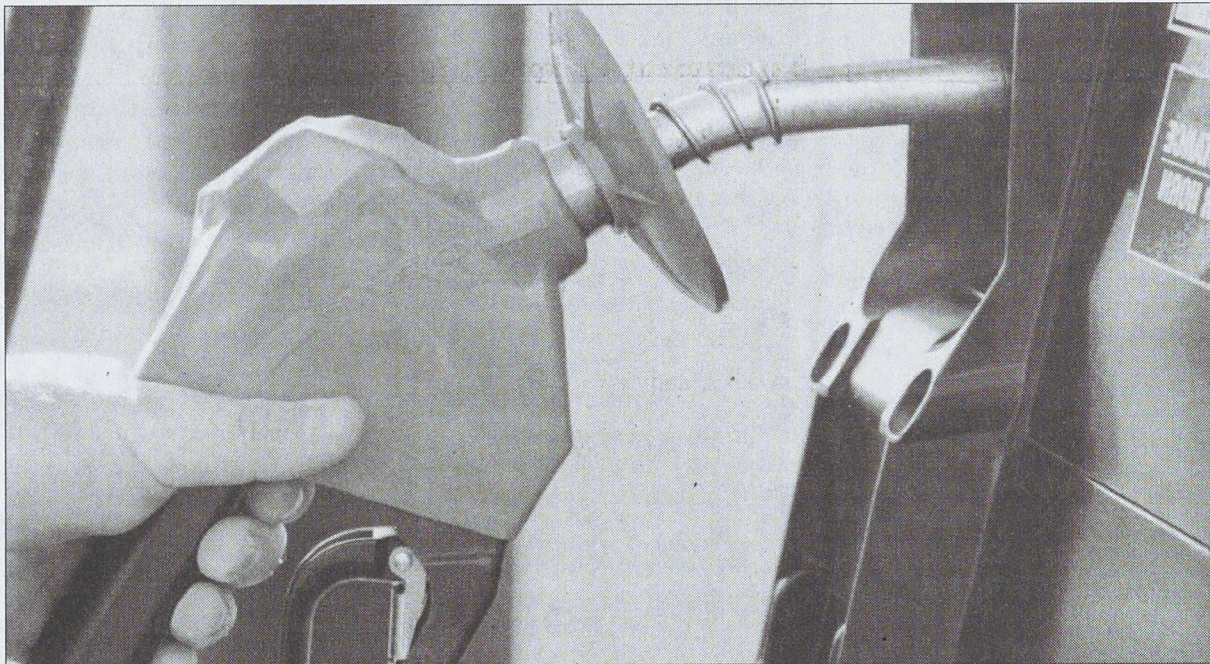


PHOTO CREATIVE COMMONS

By JAIRO ALVARADO  
STAFF WRITER

California residents will dread driving even more with a statewide rise in gas prices thanks to a Senate bill passed

Nov. 1, which increases the sales tax rate by 4 percent.

The measure, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last April, will raise state taxes on gasoline and diesel by 12 cents and 20 cents respectively.

"It is ridiculous how

much gas is out here in California," said Valley College student Kevin Lowe, "Being from Florida, where we pay an average of \$2.50. Filling up my gas tank [now] takes a toll on me."

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2018,

motorists will also have to pay an annual vehicle fee ranging from \$25 to \$175 as a part of the bill. An additional \$100 annual fee will be imposed on electric vehicle owners in lieu of the gas taxes starting on Jan. 1, 2020.

"These investments will create good-paying jobs, improve traffic safety and expand public transit access in communities across the state — without burdening our future generations with debt," said California Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León.

It might not seem like much, but 12 cents per gallon makes California the highest gas price average in America at \$3.21, while Alabama has the lowest average cost per gallon at \$2.20.

The national average is around \$2.52. Only two other states pay above \$3.00 per gallon, and they are both non-contiguous—Hawaii and Alaska according to AAA gas prices.

Some gas stations across Southern California are increasing the gas prices up to 18 cents per gallon, most notably a few in Orange County. Just a week earlier the price was hiked up to 12 cents.

California has a backlog of \$130 billion in repair projects. The tax increase will help raise more than \$5.2 billion annually and benefits the state funds for use on repairing highways, roads, bridges, expanding bike lanes and reducing traffic congestion.

With a large democratic-majority cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles favoring the bill, some republican members of the senate are trying to overturn the bill. State elections in Nov. 2018 may give chance to repeal the tax and avoid high gas prices.

Check out the Valley Star online for more stories on the campus.

thevalleystar.com

## Veterans Club brings the heat with a cookout on campus

The Veterans Club hosts their annual barbecue to raise money and awareness for struggling vets.

By JAMIE GARCIA  
STAFF WRITER

The aroma of grilled beef and turkey patties filled The Student Union Plaza Tuesday and attracted dozens of students to the Veterans Club's annual cookout.

The event ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as club members selling food and T-shirts, all for a good cause.

Students, faculty and local veterans all lined up for the mouth-watering menu, which consisted of cheeseburger, hot links and much more. Many local veterans gathered at the barbecue tent to lend a hand to club members.

"I served and sacrificed for my country and I

think it's important to support the Veterans Club," said Justin Kinnear, who served in the U.S. Air

**"They bring the skills they learned in the military and apply it to club activities."**

-Sally Raskoff said.

Force. "I support what they are doing for all my fellow soldiers."

This is the second year that the Veterans Club held a barbecue with an eye on helping the community.

Part of this year's

proceeds will be donated to a local non-profit organization that assists local vets. At last year's cookout, the club cleared \$1,000 and donated it to In Helping Others. It is a local group that helps veterans get back on their feet by paying bills such as utilities and rent. The veterans club also hosts several events throughout the year in order to help and bring awareness to our soldiers.

"These students are very dedicated to their education and their country," said Sally Raskoff, the club's faculty advisor and a U.S. Air Force veteran. "They bring the skills they learned in the military and apply it to club activities."



PHOTO BY / SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI

GRILL MASTER-Jairo Alvarado mans the grill for the Veteran's Club annual cookout in the Union Plaza.



# SPORTS

## All quiet on the Veteran's Day football game at Valley College

Valley gets touchdown siren from Veteran's Club but it does not make a sound.



DEFEAT- The team holds their post-game huddle after losing its final game of the season to Santa Barbara City College.

BY JAIRO ALVARADO  
STAFF WRITER

Monarchs football celebrated Veterans Day on Saturday in their last game of the season with a touchdown air siren gifted by the Veterans Club.

The siren was not used at all during the 14-0 blowout by Santa Barbara City College, putting Valley in last place for the American Pacific Division. Despite the team's hopes for a postseason bowl game being lost, Valley honored its veterans among others in attendance.

"It was pretty awesome to get the Veterans Club involved with the football team and start some tradition with the air raid," said Monarch and Army vet Deandre Dorsey.

In a pregame ceremony, Valley paid tribute to its veterans. The Veterans Club returned the gesture, donating the siren which is to be sounded off upon any Valley touchdowns, hopefully starting next season.

"It was tough, these guys gave it all on the field. We just came in short," said Army vet and defensive lineman Jesus Medina who came in during the second half.

Valley (4-6) had no trouble moving the ball across the field, but costly turnovers and penalties hurt the Monarchs most.

Valley turned the ball over twice, with one interception coming from a pass in the red zone which prevented the Monarchs from tying the game at the half. A missed 45 yard field goal also kept the Monarchs from getting on the board.

Running back Shonte Smith was the sparkplug of the night for Valley, carrying the ball 15 times for 80 yards. Wide receiver Justin Jacobs caught 2 catches for a total 61

yards.

Ultimately, no one could have predicted Santa Barbara (4-6) would earn its first shut-out in 18 games.

"Don't let your emotions get to you. This wasn't on you guys," said Coach Matt White to his young team. "I'll take the blame for not getting you guys ready for this game."

Valley's rookie roster continued to struggle with penalty yards, and injuries didn't help late in the season, but Coach White and his staff are already preparing for next season as they return in December for offseason training.

## Missed goal costs shot at finals

Valley loses close semi-final game against Long Beach Saturday due to last second deflection.



FINAL SECONDS- Valley's Wesley Hovanesian attempts a shot against Long Beach City College in Saturday's game.

BY VICENTE VITELA  
STAFF WRITER

Monarchs water polo fell to Long Beach City College Vikings in an 8-7 championship eliminator.

The nail biter finale came down to a shot by Valley with under 10 seconds to spare, which bounced off the goal post, costing the Monarchs a chance at the title.

"We couldn't find the back of the net," said Coach Jim McMillan about why they

couldn't tie the game.

The crowd came expecting to see a water polo match, but witnessed Tyson and Holyfield. Both teams dove into the pool ready for battle, which was evident with a 2-2 tie to end the first period.

Vikings scored a goal to start the second period, putting the Monarchs behind early. Valley's Carson Arnett, however, answered with a goal at the 5:20 mark.

The next three minutes featured both sides trading steals and empty possessions. This exchange culminated with a

foul by the Monarchs, giving Long Beach a successful penalty shot by Myles Martinez. Off the arm of Haik Gukasyan, the Monarch resilience shined once more with only 20 seconds left in the half.

Tensions rose in the third quarter when Monarch Vasil Halchev headbutted a Viking, earning a foul call. Long Beach began to pull away with a 8-5 lead after two unanswered goals put a stop to Monarchs' momentum.

Down by three points, the urgency pushed Valley to chip away the lead. Louis Brunner

and Halchev scored consecutive goals to outmatch the Viking defense which is ranked number two in the state.

As time winded down, the Monarchs gained possession with just 10 seconds remaining. Aram Nordanyan took the shot for Valley, but it ricocheted off the bar, along with it any hope for a title.

"It was a good battle against a good team" said McMillan.

The Monarchs would go on to lose their third place game against Citrus College 11-10, settling for fourth place.

### MCQUINN'S PRESSBOX

## The Shohei must go on

The Dodgers look to acquire a pitcher from Japan for their 2018 World Series run.



HARRISON MCQUINN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The World Series is still a fresh wound for all Angelinos who anticipated the appearance for decades, but a pitcher from Japan could be key in the Dodgers' next run for the Fall Classic.

The Dodgers lost in the 2015 NLDS, then the 2016 NLCS, and finally the 2017 WS. If L.A. follows the same rhythm, Dodgers will become 2018 champions. Shohei Otani, who currently plays for Japan's Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters, may be a vital piece for the blue who struggled on the mound this last series.

The 2016 Pacific League MVP has all eyes on him this offseason and rightfully so. At the plate, Otani delivers left-handed uppercuts, but on the mound he throws right. His ambidexterity is just the tip of the diamond.

The 23 year old threw the fastest recorded pitch by a high schooler in Japan at 99 miles per hour, and the kid can hit,

over 500-foot homers to be exact. Otani finished his 2017 season with a .332 batting average.

On top of throwing record fastballs, Otani is able to play outfield as well as designated hitter, making him incredibly versatile.

Otani stands just an inch shorter than his 6 foot 5 inch predecessor Yu Darvish, who wore the same number during his days with the Fighters. Perhaps that one inch accounts for Otani's incredible speed.

The young ace averages under 4 seconds when running from the plate to first base. He's ranked among the fastest players in MLB history including Astros' Jose Altuve.

Before the Dodgers can pursue Otani, he first has to decide if he wants to surrender potentially hundreds of millions in Japan to enter the MLB as a free agent. Due to international player acquisition guidelines, Otani is looking at up to \$4 million if he were to sign for 2018 compared to a projected \$200 million if he decides to wait two years.

The Dodgers will seek out other free agents, expect the return of LF Andrew Toles as well as the call-up of Julio Urias, and hopefully avoid the sophomore jinx on Cody Bellinger; however, the powerful arm from Japan could be the most pivotal move for the Dodgers 2018 run.

# THE END ZONE

MONARCHS FOOTBALL  
(4-6) FINISHED SECOND TO LAST IN THE AMERICAN PACIFIC DIVISION

MENS WATER POLO  
(22-8) FINISHED FIRST IN WESTERN STATE DIVISION

MENS BASKETBALL  
(0-3) CURRENTLY LAST IN WESTERN STATE EAST DIVISION

WOMENS BASKETBALL  
(2-1) THIRD, WESTERN STATE EAST DIVISION

WOMENS SOCCER  
(5-13-1) FINISHED THIRD IN WESTERN STATE DIVISION

Highlights compiled by Emmanuel Cordova, and Fredy Vega